**Environment and ECO-System of Aravali Hills**

*204. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing degradation of environment and eco-system of Aravali hills;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the details of the schemes started or proposed to be started with the assistance of Japan and World Bank for conservation of Aravali hills and the conditions thereof; and

(d) the details of the notification issued recently in this regard under the Environment Protection Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Degradation of Aravalis is attributed to excessive biotic pressure and environmentally incompatible activities.

The steps taken include rehabilitation schemes aimed at restoration of the degraded forests and wastelands, pastures etc. through programmes of soil conservation, water harvesting, fuel wood plantation, farm forestry, plantation on community land and improvement of wildlife habitat.

(c) A statement giving details of the schemes involving assistance of Japan and World Bank is enclosed.

(d) The preliminary notification issued on 9th January, 1992 covers portions of the Aravalies of the Gurgaon District in Haryana and Alwar District in Rajasthan and prohibits the carrying on of the following activities except with the prior permission of the Union Government:

— Location of any industry;

— All mining operations;

— Cutting of trees;

— Cattle interference in Saviska National Park and Sariska sanctuary; and

— Construction of clusters of dwelling units, farm houses, community centres etc. as well as electrification.

**STATEMENT**

| *Funding agency* | *World Bank/US Agency for International Development (US AID)* | *Japan/Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF)* |
|---|---|---|
| *1* | *2* | *3* |
| **Project Title** | National Social Forestry Project | Afforestation in Aravali Hills |
| (a) Date of Commencement | April, 1985 | Aprial, 1992 |
| (b) Expected date of Completion | December, 1990 extended to March, 1993 | March, 1997 |
| **Objectives** | Increase in production of fuel wood, small timber poles and fooder, rural employment, afforestation of degraded areas and wastelands, soil erosionm reduction and strengthening of forestry instituions opportunities for participation by landless persons. | To restore the ecological status of Aravali Hills and to meet the local needs of fuelwood and fodder. |
| Area Covered | 16 districts of Rajasthan | 10 districts of Rajasthan |
| **Project cost** | | |
| Local | Rs. 391.9 million | NIL |
| External | $ 32.7 million | Yen 9524 million (Rs. 166.9 crores) |